

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OCTOBER 31 PRESS ROUNDUP

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

1. RICHARD BURT IN OCT. 30 NEW YORK TIMES SAID U.S. AND
USSR STILL ARE "SOME DISTANCE AWAY" FROM ACHIEVING COMPRE-
HENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB) IN SPITE OF RECENT SUGGESTIONS BY
HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW THAT NEW
ACCORD MIGHT BE ACHIEVED IN NEAR FUTURE. "ALTHOUGH SOME
MODEST CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE RECENTLY IN NEGOTIATING POSI-
TIONS, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED TODAY THAT SUB-
STANTIAL DIFFERENCES MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE AN AGREEMENT IS
POSSIBLE," BURT REPORTED. "THESE DIFFERENCES BOIL DOWN TO
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AMERICAN OPPOSITION TO ANY ACCORD THAT WOULD PERMIT DETONA-
TION OF NUCLEAR DEVICES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND SOVIET
UNWILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT THAT PLACED NO
LIMITS ON CHINESE NUCLEAR TESTING. OFFICIALS SAID THAT
ANOTHER IMPORTANT DISAGREEMENT CONCERNED HOW TO VERIFY COM-
PLIANCE WITH CTB. WHILE THESE DIFFERENCES ARE SUBSTANTIAL,
OFFICIALS ALSO INDICATED THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS NOW CON-
SIDERING PROPOSALS FOR BREAKING DEADLOCK THAT WOULD INVOLVE
MAJOR CONCESSIONS BY BOTH WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW." BURT
SAID TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA HAVE REVEALED THAT

NEITHER WASHINGTON NOR MOSCOW HAS BRIDGED THEIR BASIC DIFFERENCES OVER NUCLEAR TESTING. "U.S. IS SAID TO BE ADVOCATING FIVE-YEAR TREATY BANNING ALL TESTING, MILITARY OR OTHERWISE. WHILE OTHER NATIONS, INCLUDING SUCH NUCLEAR POWERS AS CHINA AND FRANCE, WOULD BE INVITED TO SIGN TREATY, U.S. NEGOTIATORS ARE APPARENTLY INSISTING THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE PREREQUISITE FOR PACT BINDING WASHINGTON, MOSCOW AND LONDON."

2. NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH REPORTING THAT SOVIET UNION DETONATED RARE DOUBLE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION OCT. 29, WITH UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS SEVEN AND HALF MINUTES APART. SWEDISH SEISMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE IN UPPSALA PINPOINTED BLAST SITES IN SEMIPALATINSK AREA IN SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA. FIRST BLAST, AT 11:14 PM, NEW YORK TIMES, MEASURED 5.6 ON RICHTER SCALE; SECOND RECORDED 6.6, INDICATING FORCES STRONG ENOUGH TO CAUSE SEVERE DAMAGE ON EARTH'S SURFACE, REPORT SAID. SPOKESMAN SAID HE COULD NOT RECALL WHETHER INSTITUTE HAD EVER BEFORE RECORDED TWO SUCH POWERFUL EXPLOSIONS WITHIN SUCH SHORT PERIOD. SPOKESMAN, AP SAID, DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON MEANING OF BLASTS, BUT COMMENTED, "THEY COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT TWO DIFFERENT BUT NEAR PLACES."
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3. IN NATIONALLY TELEVISED INTERVIEW, AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG RULED OUT AN AMERICAN BAN ON SHIPMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL TO SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE SUCH PROHIBITION MIGHT ENCOURAGE SOUTH AFRICA TO STEP UP DEVELOPMENT OF ITS OWN CAPACITY TO PRODUCE ATOMIC WEAPONS. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID YOUNG EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE HE MIGHT PERSONALLY FAVOR AN EMBARGO ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA AS FURTHER PRESSURE ON PRETORIA TO ALTER ITS APARTHEID POLICIES, "THINGS HAVE GONE TOO FAR FOR THAT TO BE REALISTIC POSSIBILITY." YOUNG SAID SOUTH AFRICA HAD ACHIEVED NUCLEAR POTENTIAL, "EXTENT OF WHICH WE ARE NOT FULLY ABLE TO JUDGE," AND THAT FOR U.S. TO END ITS 20-YEAR POLICY OF COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY "WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S OWN NUCLEAR POTENTIAL." YOUNG MADE IT CLEAR HE WAS REFLECTING ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN, WHICH HAS GROWN SINCE EARLY AUGUST THAT SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT SOON DECIDE TO DETONATE NUCLEAR DEVICE, THEREBY SPREADING AN ATOMIC CAPABILITY TO AFRICAN CONTINENT, GWERTZMAN POINTED OUT. YOUNG, APPEARING ON ABC'S "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" REFLECTED ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN THAT IF SOUTH AFRICA FELT ITSELF TOTALLY ISOLATED IT MIGHT DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS LAST RESORT, TIMES CORRESPONDENT ADDED. "SOME OFFICIALS," GWERTZMAN CONTINUED, "HAVE SPECULATED THAT GROWING TIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA MAY INVOLVE EXCHANGES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AS WELL, SINCE BOTH ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE CAPABILITY TO DETONATE ATOMIC DEVICES AND NEITHER HAS SIGNED TREATY TO HALT SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

MR. YOUNG SAID SOME SOUTH AFRICANS MIGHT LOOK UPON NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS PROVIDING SECURITY, BUT IF THEY EXPLODED SUCH DEVICE NUMBER OF THEIR NEIGHBORS "WOULD IMMEDIATELY TRY TO GET NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM ANYWHERE THEY COULD. MR. YOUNG SAID, 'I THINK BY MAINTAINING SOME KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WE DO HAVE POSSIBILITY OF INFLUENCING THEM TO SIGN NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY AND ACCEPTING ALL OF SAFEGUARDS THAT GO WITH IAEA.' HE SAID ONLY WAY U.S. COULD UNCLASSIFIED

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MONITOR SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT 'IS TO KEEP SOME RELATIONSHIP.... IF YOU BREAK RELATIONSHIP ALTOGETHER, THERE IS NO WAY TO MONITOR AND IT IS ALMOST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T TRUST THEM THAT YOU HAVE TO STAY CLOSE TO THEM.' GWERTZMAN REPORTED THAT IN NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE INTERVIEW RELEASED OCT. 30, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SAID ON SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT, "WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN ANY OTHER PURPOSE THAN PEACEFUL PURPOSES."

4. HENRY TREWHITT OF BALTIMORE SUN STATED THAT "WITH TIME PRESIDENT CARTER HAS RETREATED FROM HIS MOST AMBITIOUS PLANS TO LIMIT NUCLEAR CLUB BY TIGHTER CONTROL OF TECHNOLOGY. GOAL IS UNCHANGED, BUT RESISTANCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, AMERICAN INDUSTRY AND CONGRESS DICTATED MORE MODEST STRATEGY AND TACTICS." TREWHITT SAID CARTER FOUND THAT NATIONS COMMITTED TO EXPENSIVE TECHNOLOGY UNDER OLD RULES WERE NOT HAPPY -- "SOME GOVERNMENTS WERE EVEN DISTRAUGHT -- THAT HE SEEMED TO BE CHANGING RULES. MODEST OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING STUDIES OF ALL FUEL RESERVES AND OF ALTERNATE NUCLEAR SYSTEMS, RESULTED FROM MEETING OF 40 NATIONS IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK. AMERICAN OFFICIALS INSIST THAT SUBJECT NOW WILL NOT SIMPLY BE STUDIED TO DEATH. BUT STUDIES WILL NOT BE COMPLETE FOR TWO YEARS, AND OFFICIALS CONCEDE THAT POLITICS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY MAY CHANGE GREATLY DURING THAT TIME. NOW PRINCIPAL BATTLEGROUND FOR MR. CARTER'S CAMPAIGN IS ON CAPITOL HILL. PRIZE IS NEW LEGISLATION, WHICH EITHER WILL OR WILL NOT PROVIDE NEW, STIFFER TERMS FOR SALE OF NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY AND OF NUCLEAR FUEL ABROAD. ADMINISTRATION HAS SOFTENED ITS EARLIEST, MOST DEMANDING TERMS FOR NEW LEGISLATION. IN FACT, IT HAS DISAPPOINTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DEDICATED TO RIGID REQUIREMENTS BY OPPOSING THEIR TOUGHEST LANGUAGE. BUT LANGUAGE ADMINISTRATION DOES SUPPORT FACES DETER- UNCLASSIFIED

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MINED OPPOSITION FROM INDUSTRY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS." TREWHITT SAID WITHDRAWING HIS OWN BILL, PRESIDENT HAS SWUNG BEHIND ONE SPONSORED CHIEFLY BY SENATORS GLENN AND PERCY. "THAT LEGISLATION, AN INDUSTRY SPOKESMAN SAYS, PROPOSED 'NOT NONPROLIFERATION POLICY BUT POLICY OF NUCLEAR

ISOLATION,' TREWHITT REPORTED. "HIS POINT WAS THAT MADE BY CRITICS OF MEASURE IN CONGRESS -- THAT STRINGENT LEGISLATION MIGHT EVEN BE SELF-DEFEATING BY FORCING OTHER COUNTRIES TO SHOP ELSEWHERE OR EVEN TO DECIDE IN FAVOR OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS." TREWHITT SAID PERCY-GLENN BILL AND RELATED ONE ALREADY PASSED BY HOUSE "PRESCRIBE NUCLEAR EXPORT SYSTEM VASTLY MORE COMPLICATED THAN NOW IN EFFECT." SENATOR MCCLURE, HE POINTED OUT, HAS SUBMITTED ANALYSIS THAT SAYS PERCY-GLENN BILL UNJUSTLY CRITICIZES PRESENT SYSTEM AND SETS NEW TERMS OTHER COUNTRIES COULD NOT ACCEPT TREWHITT SAID ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS RESIST SUGGESTS THAT CARTER HAS HAD TO RETREAT TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE. "FROM BEGINNING, THEY SAY, HIS LANGUAGE ALWAYS ALLOWED FOR CONTINUED NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LOT OF TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR FULFILLMENT OF HIS OBJECTIVES. IN FACT, STUDY OF HIS ORIGINAL PRONOUNCEMENT AGAINST NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION BEARS THAT OUT. BUT IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT OTHER NATIONS PERCEIVED HIS APPROACH AS AN ASSAULT ON THEIR PROGRAMS AND FEARED THAT HE WAS CHANGING RULES TO ADVANTAGE OF U.S."

5. BILL PETERSON OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT, DESCRIBING U.S. AS WORLD'S LARGEST ARMS PEDDLER, INTENDS "BEFORE LONG" TO OFFER SOVIET UNION PROPOSALS TO LIMIT SALE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AROUND WORLD. PETERSON REPORTED THAT "IN PROPOSING FOR FIRST TIME MAJOR POWER AGREEMENT TO PUT CONTROLS ON \$20 BILLION DOLLARS-A-YEAR INDUSTRY, CARTER SAID, 'WE ALL FEEL THAT IT SHOULD BE CUT BACK. HOW TO DO IT IS ANOTHER MATTER, OF COURSE, THAT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ADDRESS. WE ARE WORST VIOLATOR AT THIS TIME, SOVIET PERHAPS NEXT, AND FRENCH, BRITISH AND BEL-
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GIANs, TO SOME DEGREE, PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXCESSIVE ARMS SALE.' PROPOSAL COMES AT TIME WHEN CARTER'S ARMS POLICY IS UNDER MOUNTING CRITICISM BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED UNILATERAL POLICY OF RESTRAINING U.S. SALE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS SIX MONTHS AGO, SAYING THAT 'SPIRALING ARMS TRAFFIC' REPRESENTED 'THREAT TO WORLD PEACE.' LITTLE, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN DONE SINCE."

6. HENRY BRADSHAW OF WASHINGTON STAR SAID U.S. "PLANS TO ASK SOVIET UNION TO HALT TESTS OF ITS SATELLITE KILLERS AS ANOTHER STEP TOWARD ARMS CONTROL, BUT AFTER EIGHT MONTHS' STUDY, CARTER ADMINISTRATION STILL HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO WORK OUT DETAILED PROPOSAL FOR BANNING SUCH WEAPONS BECAUSE OF VERIFICATION PROBLEMS. NEITHER HAS ADMINISTRATION BEEN ABLE SO FAR TO COME UP WITH SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR RESTRAINING CIVIL DEFENSE SYSTEMS IN EACH COUNTRY IN ORDER TO PRESERVE VIABILITY OF NUCLEAR DETERRENTS. AND EFFORTS TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH KREMLIN ON MUTUAL RESTRAINT OF SUPPLYING NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO OTHER COUN-

TRIES HAVE NOT GOTTEN STARTED -- APPARENTLY BECAUSE SOVIETS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN REDUCING THEIR SHARE OF INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS. THESE THREE SUBJECTS WERE AMONG EIGHT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SAID ON MARCH 30 SOVIET UNION HAD AGREED TO STUDY JOINTLY AS AN EXTENSION OF ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS INTO OTHER AREAS BEYOND STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, OR SALT.... TALKS HAVE BEEN UNDER WAY IN WASHINGTON, MOSCOW AND GENEVA ON SOME OF SUBJECTS. OFFICIAL SOURCES HERE SAY ENCOURAGING PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON AT LEAST FOUR OF THEM. THEY ARE REDUCING MILITARY FORCES IN INDIAN OCEAN, BANNING ALL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, AND ELIMINATING CAPABILITIES OF WAGING WAR WITH CHEMICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. CARTER LISTED CHEMICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS TOGETHER AS ONE OF EIGHT SUBJECTS, BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY. ANOTHER SUBJECT WAS PREVENTING SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO PRESENTLY NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES. TWO SUPERPOWERS AGREED LAST JUNE TO MERGE THESE NONPROLIFERATION EFFORTS INTO WORK OF LONDON SUPPLIERS GROUP.... EIGHT SUBJECT WAS ADVANCE NOTICE OF MISSILE TEST FIRINGS TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND POSSIBLY ACCIDENTAL CONFLICT. NOW MERGED INTO SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS, THIS HAS BECOME ONE OF MANY OBSTACLES BLOCKING WRITING OF TREATY. SOVIET UNION CONTENTS EXISTING AGREEMENTS ARE SUFFICIENT. ADMINISTRATION DISAGREES."

7. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, IN OCT. 29 WASHINGTON POST, CHARGED THAT "SECRET COMPUTER STUDIES SHOW THAT EXISTING U.S. CRUISE MISSILES WOULD NOT HAVE CHANCE OF PENETRATING SOVIET UNION'S SOPHISTICATED DEFENSE SYSTEM, REVELATION ACUTELY EMBARRASSING TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND THREATENING TO PROSPECTIVE SALT TWO AGREEMENT. STUDIES, CONDUCTED JOINTLY OVER SUMMER BY PRIVATE CONTRACTOR AND PENTAGON, FOUND THAT SCHEDULED 'LIVE' TEST WOULD RESULT IN TOMAHAWK CRUISE MISSILE BEING SHOT DOWN BY U.S. DEFENSES. CONSEQUENTLY, DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SOME TWO WEEKS AGO CANCELED 'LIVE' TEST AND SUBSTITUTED 'DEAD' OR SIMULATED TEST. THAT WAS INTENDED TO SIDESTEP SEVERE EMBARRASSMENT FOR WEAPON THAT BECAME STRATEGICALLY CRUCIAL WHEN CARTER SHELVED B-ONE BOMBER. BUT WORDS HAS FILTERED OUT OF PENTAGON, GIVING AMMUNITION TO CAPITOL HILL CRITICS OF CARTER DEFENSE POLICY. NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT THAT IS BEING NEGOTIATED IN GENEVA BECOMES MORE VULNERABLE THAN EVER TO CRITICISM THAT IT GIVES SOVIET UNION DANGEROUS ADVANTAGE. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TOLD US THERE WAS NO COMPUTER STUDY MADE AND THAT THERE WILL BE 'LIVE' TESTS OF TOMAHAWK. BUT OUR SOURCES AT PENTAGON REAFFIRMED IN DETAIL STORY OF CRUISE MISSILE CRISIS." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID ONE TECHNICIAN TOLD THEM "I'M VERY MUCH AFRAID THAT CRUISE MISSILE IS ABOUT ONE WEAPON GENERATION AWAY FROM BEING ABLE TO PENETRATE SOVIET DEFENSES."

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THEY SAID OTHER EXPERTS BELIEVE SWARM OF TOMAHAWKS COULD OVERRUN SOVIET AIR DEFENSES, BUT THAT WOULD REQUIRE THOUSANDS OF CRUISE MISSILES, NUMBER NEITHER PLANNED FOR PRO-

DUCTION NOR PERMITTED UNDER PROPOSED SALT TWO TREATY. YET, WITHOUT B-ONE BOMBER, SOVIET SUPERIORITY IN HEAVY MISSILES WOULD PROVIDE ALL MORE LOPSIDED STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE IF CRUISE MISSILE CANNOT PENETRATE SOVIET DEFENSES. THEREFORE, EVEN THOUGH IT LOST FIGHT FOR B-ONE, AIR FORCE IS DESPERATE FOR PENETRATING BOMBER AND IS PUSHING FOR REMODELED FB-111 (OLD TFX) AS SUBSTITUTE."

8. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED OCT. 29 THAT SOVIET UNION HAS BEGUN BUILDING NUCLEAR SUBMARINE DESIGNED TO LAUNCH 20 TO 24 LONG-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS." BURT SAID SUBMARINE, WHICH APPARENTLY HAS BEEN NAMED TYPHOON BY SOVIET NAVY, IS SAID TO BE LARGEST EVER BUILT IN SOVIET UNION. TYPHOON REPORTEDLY IS OVER 500 FEET LONG AND WITH SURFACE DISPLACEMENT OF OVER 15,000 TONS. "THIS COULD MAKE IT COMPARABLE IN SIZE TO U.S. NAVY'S YET-TO-BE DEPLOYED TRIDENT CLASS SUBMARINES," BURT SAID. IN APPARENT EFFORT TO REDUCE SUBMARINE VULNERABILITY, SOVIET NAVY IN RECENT YEARS HAS STRESSED NEWER BOATS AND LONGER-RANGE MISSILES THAT WOULD BE ABLE TO HIT TARGETS IN U.S. FROM WATER ADJACENT TO SOVIET TERRITORY, BURT SAID. "AS MORE AND MORE OF SOVIET FLEET BECOMES ABLE TO OPERATE OUT OF REACH OF WESTERN ANTI-SUBMARINE FORCES, ANALYSTS BELIEVE THAT MOSCOW'S CONFIDENCE IN ITS SEA-BASED DETERRENT WILL GROW. AS RESULT, SOME ANALYSTS BELIEVE THAT CONSTRUCTION OF TYPHOON REPRESENTS AN EFFORT BY MOSCOW TO PLACE GREATER RELIANCE ON ITS SEA-BASED MISSILE FORCES AT EXPENSE OF ITS LAND-BASED MISSILE FORCE. THEY INDICATE THAT THIS WOULD

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BE AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT, SINCE SOVIET LAND-BASED MISSILES ARE JUDGED TO BE MOST THREATENING PART OF SOVIET STRATEGIC ARSENAL. HOWEVER, THIS VIEW IS HOTLY CONTESTED BY OTHER OFFICIALS WHO ARGUE THAT WHILE MODERNIZATION OF SOVIET SEA-BASED FORCES IS AN IMPORTANT PRIORITY, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT PACE OF IMPROVEMENTS TO LAND-BASED SYSTEMS IS SLOWING DOWN." VANCE

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